

Bonnie Smith/R3/USEPA/US
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To R3 EVERYONE
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Subject Fw: Headlines for Friday, June 17, 2011

EPA REGION III

◇ Office of Public Affairs

◇ Early Bird Headlines

Friday, June 17, 2011

MORNING HOT LIST

EPA asks state to improve gas well water checks

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE (yesterday) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has asked Pennsylvania to do a better job sampling, monitoring and regulating Marcellus Shale wastewater discharges near public drinking water sources. The EPA also has reminded the state Department of Environmental Protection that any new methods for disposing of drilling wastewater must comply with federal rules. The federal agency last week directed six of the major Marcellus Shale drilling companies in Pennsylvania to disclose,

by May 25, how and where they will dispose of or recycle wastewater now that they can no longer use municipal sewage treatment facilities.

EPA says claims of job destruction not true

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.) June 16--While West Virginia's federal and state politicians have been quick to demonize the Environmental Protection Agency, particularly its efforts in the past two years, which have been characterized as "job-killing," the administrator of the EPA told members of the U.S. Senate Wednesday that those claims are not accurate. Citing increased medical concerns, including respiratory disease, decreased lung function and premature death as a result of the pollutants her agency is trying to reduce, Jackson made her case before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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Experts' opinion: fracking is safe

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State not seeing windfall from gas drilling tax, yet

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING June 17, 2011 · Natural gas and oil companies are increasing their drilling activity in the state's rich Marcellus shale reserves but the state isn't seeing a windfall of revenue from the gas severance tax, at least not yet. Marcellus shale drilling activity is growing in the Northern Panhandle, especially in Marshall County where there are 29 active gas wells. But despite the growing industry, the area isn't receiving a lot of money from the natural gas severance tax.

Nutter lauds 'green' work, pledges to do more

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS (yesterday) Minutes after Mayor Nutter crowed about the city's environmental accomplishments and goals, several residents walking in Center City yesterday offered lukewarm support for Nutter's effort to make Philadelphia the "greenest city in America" by 2015. A young couple sitting near City Hall praised the city for making the environment a priority. "It's a nice city, but it would be better if it was clean," said Camille, who didn't want to give her last name. While they noted the latest change - Philadelphia's first green-roof bus shelter at 15th and Market streets - others had yet to recognize the innovation.

Columnist: Blowing up the mountaintops to get out the coal

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER *The Last Mountain* will make you very, very angry. A powerful documentary with an important

agenda - saving an Appalachian mountain and the people living in the valley below - director Bill Haney's piece of advocacy journalism looks at the heavy costs of "mountaintop removal," a method of coal extraction in which tons of dynamite are used to blow a mountain wide open. The result, in the words of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the environmental crusader who has been fighting alongside West Virginia locals in their battle against a giant coal company and government officials, is "a denuded moonscape." Hundreds of thousands of acres of denuded moonscape. *The Last Mountain* is more than another tale of treehuggers going up against an energy behemoth and its employees (who are, understandably, happy to be employed)

PENNSYLVANIA

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PETERSPATCH

Marcellus Shale Awareness Group Plans Petition to Amend Township Home Rule Charter Members of the Peters Township Marcellus Shale Awareness group are planning to circulate petitions among residents to change the home rule charter to ban gas drilling within township boundaries. The PTMSA posted intentions on its website today to seek 1,000 signatures to place the issue on the Nov. 6 general election ballots. The group plans to begin circulation of the petitions on June 21, and will actively seek signatures during the annual community day on June 25. The PTMSA plans to take the petitions to the Washington County Election Bureau to place the

question on the ballot. The group has been opposed to an ordinance allowing mineral extraction that is now before township council. Council is considering a revised ordinance; the public hearing has been set for July 18.

WJACTV.COM

Frack Water Treatment Plant Coming To Clearfield Co.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, Pa. -- A Harrisburg company is setting up a plant in Clearfield County that will treat frack water and create jobs in the process. Lawrence Township officials said around 50 positions will be available at this treatment plant, when it opens up in about a year and a half. The Integrated Water Technologies plant will also take up quite a bit of space at the Firemen's Industrial Park outside Clearfield. There are already plenty of marcellus shale wells around the Lawrence Township area. Officials said this treatment plant would take that contaminated frack water and purify it. But, that isn't the only purpose of the plant. Township officials it will also create salt from that water.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS

State needs to see money from gas drilling

I have a comment about legislators who regularly tell readers of The Patriot-News that the notion of severance taxes on the huge natural gas reserves in Pennsylvania would be anti-business or some such equivalency. I say: "How long, how long, will you continue to abuse our patience?" The facts are as clear as numbers on a highway exit sign. First, it is economic bunk to argue that taxation on these resources taken from our lands will be a disincentive for other businesses doing such. The state finances of gas-and/or-oil-rich Texas, Oklahoma and Wyoming — all three have conservative Republican governors and state legislatures — would be hurting financially; they all depend on severance tax revenues and collect billions annually. Second, the removal of gas resources occurs at an arithmetic rate, but the demands on the economic system are geometric.

WASHINGTON OBSERVER REPORTER

Marcellus co-op holds workshop Seventeen municipalities have joined in the Marcellus Municipal Co-op initiated by state Rep. Jesse White, D-Cecil, aimed at defining the role and responsibilities of local governments related to natural gas drilling. As a result of Saturday's private, three-hour workshop, the co-op established a mission statement, organized a committee structure and discussed issues, goals and future events. "The natural gas industry is here to stay, so we have to be thinking about how everyone can co-exist," White said. A meeting tentatively to be held in August with Marcellus Shale Coalition President Katherine Klaber will be open to the public, but White anticipates private working sessions, too.

Meeting on longwall impact planned for Wednesday The impact of longwall mining on properties and water resources in Greene and

Washington counties will be the subject of a public meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Morris Township Community Center in Nineveh. Stephen Kunz of the consulting firm Schmid & Co. will present a report his firm prepared based on the state Department of Environmental Protection's latest review of Act 54, the state's underground coal mining law. The DEP review, required by Act 54 and released in January, documented the effects of mining in 10 counties from August 2003 through August 2008 and assessed the effectiveness of measures designed to minimize subsidence damage. Schmid & Co.'s report, prepared for the environmental group Citizens Coal Council, indicates Act 54 does not do enough to protect property owners and the state's land and water resources from harm. "The inevitable conclusion from our analysis is that longwall mining as currently permitted by the Pa. DEP irreparably and unnecessarily damages streams and other water resources," Kunz said. The overhaul of Act 54 will be discussed at the meeting.

HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER

Editorial: A better fee plan for gas drillers Ever since he introduced a bill to establish a modest "impact fee" on the natural gas industry, state Sen. Joseph Scarnati has tried to convince his fellow conservatives that the fee is not a tax. But the issue isn't whether to call an assessment on gas drilling a fee, tax or revenue enhancement. Gov. Tom Corbett insists that development of the gas industry in Pennsylvania is a partnership between the government and the industry. That's not the correct relationship to ensure the public's wellbeing. But if the commonwealth is to be in a partnership, the objective of the Legislature should be to ensure that the people of Pennsylvania receive a partner's share, regardless of what it is called.

Researchers probing cancer cluster

(yesterday) Research and study continues into the high incidence of a rare cancer called polycythemia vera in Carbon, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties near Tamaqua and McAdoo. A panel of public health officials met Wednesday at the Tamaqua Community Center to provide a public update on the ongoing research. Tamaqua-area resident Joseph Murphy, chairman of the Community Action Committee, which was established to keep citizens of the tri-county area connected to the government agencies conducting the research, said the meeting was called by the ATSDR (the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) to review findings and chart future research. Public health officials taking part in the meeting included Lora Werner and Stephen Derwent of the ATSDR; David Marchetto and James Logue, epidemiological research associates with the state Department of Health; Carol Ann Gross-Davis, research leader with Drexell University; Jeanine Buchanich of the University of Pittsburgh, Henry S. Cole, environmental consultant; and Robert Lewis of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN & HERALD

FAMA considering selling nitrogen and phosphorus credits FRACKVILLE - There can be money made in selling excess nitrogen and phosphorus credits, and the Frackville Area Municipal Authority is considering doing just that. At Wednesday's meeting, the FAMA board were pitched about selling its credits by Jason Wert, director of engineering with Mercuria Energy America Inc., State College

office. "You find yourself in the fortunate position that you have a plant that meets those future requirements through either excellent operation, being underneath the flow requirements or both," Wert said. "There are a lot of plants who don't fit into that category and they're investing considerable sums of money in upgrading those facilities to remove nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, from the wastewater."

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TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

Athens Twp. Supervisors block frack water treatment plant ATHENS TOWNSHIP - The Athens Township supervisors on Thursday voted to deny a conditional use application for Integrated Water Technologies Inc.'s proposed \$60 million plant that would have treated waste water from hydraulic fracturing as well as production brines from gas wells. The denial of the application means that the plant cannot be located at the site, which would have been off Wilawana Avenue in the Valley Industrial Park. John Thompson, the township's solicitor, said the supervisors felt the plant would be inappropriate to be located near the surrounding properties. Supervisor E. Maurice Fay said he was concerned that plant would be located near a field used by a local youth soccer program and because residents in the vicinity of the plant are on private well water, which he said could become contaminated by a spill at the site.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmental officials study instances of methane in wells near Marcellus Shale drilling operation MUNCY, Pa. - State environmental officials are investigating new instances of methane contamination in residential water wells and a northern Pennsylvania stream near a Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling operation. The Department of Environmental Protection found the flammable gas in seven water wells in Lycoming County and gas bubbling into nearby Little Muncy Creek. That prompted XTO Energy Inc., a subsidiary of

ExxonMobil Corp., to stop operations in the county and provide the well owners with bottled water. The DEP had not determined the source of the methane, spokesman Dan Spadoni said. "The investigation is complex and will take time to resolve," he told the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

Ridge: Gas industry must improve public image

Williamsport —\Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, now a consultant to the natural gas industry, says drillers operating in the Marcellus Shale recognize they need to improve their standing with the public. Ridge toured several shale outcroppings with a Penn State University geologist on Thursday, seeking to learn more about the gas-bearing rock that's led to a drilling boom throughout northern and southwestern Pennsylvania. While talking up the "transformational economic potential" of the Marcellus, Ridge tells The Associated Press that energy companies know they must do a better job of reassuring the public that they take environmental protection seriously.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Firm pushes for Va. uranium mining

RICHMOND — More than a dozen Virginia legislators are flying to France this month on all-expenses paid trips as part of an aggressive lobbying effort by a company pushing lawmakers to lift a ban on uranium mining in the state. Virginia Uranium invited nearly all 140 state lawmakers to France as it looks to mine what is thought to be the largest deposit of uranium in the United States, in south central Virginia, despite concerns about unearthed radioactive material that could contaminate the area's land, air and drinking water.

A safe way to speed on Maryland Intercounty Connector? **Dear Dr. Gridlock:** I have a suggestion for the Intercounty Connector: Raise the speed limit! 55 mph? Really? Why not 65 or more? It can handle it. What they should do to help offset its cost, given the less-than-expected toll take, is create a Pay-to-Drive-the-ICC Day. Here's how it works: You download an insurance waiver, fill it out and take it to the ICC's Georgia Avenue entrance at your allotted time with \$50 cash.

THE HILL (DC)

Blog: GOP demands major industry voice on federal gas 'fracking' panel House Republicans are using Energy Department spending legislation to demand substantial industry representation on a federal advisory panel reviewing the controversial natural-gas extraction method called hydraulic fracturing. Report language accompanying the fiscal 2012 spending plan a House committee **approved** **Wednesday** calls for changes in the panel advising the Energy Department on the method — dubbed "fracking" — that's enabling a natural-gas boom but bringing fears of groundwater pollution along with it.

WEST VIRGINIA

DAILY MAIL

Editorial: The Obama EPA is harming the economy

The president's war on coal will raise power bills even more. West Virginians were already reeling from higher power bills when AEP Chairman and CEO Michael G. Morris announced that the rate hikes will just keep coming. Many state residents blame these increases on the power company or the Public Service Commission. In the future, it will be more accurate to blame the Obama administration. Under regulations put in place earlier, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency required the installation of \$2 billion worth of pollution control equipment on coal-fired plants in the state. That's part of what customers are feeling. But it's only going to get worse.

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WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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Feds restore protection for W. Va. flying squirrel

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — The West Virginia northern flying squirrel is officially an endangered species once again. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Thursday it has issued a final rule restoring the protection after a three-year hiatus to comply with a court order that sided with five environmental groups which had sued in 2009. In March a federal judge ruled the agency ignored its own rules when it decided to end more than two decades of protection for the flying squirrel. The ruling said the agency's move effectively changed the recovery plan for the species without the required public-input process. The small, nocturnal flying squirrel is found only in higher elevation forests of West Virginia and Virginia. It was initially made an endangered species in 1985 after only 10 animals were found.

DELAWARE

WHYY-NEWSWORKS

Cows move in to help manage Delaware parkA pair of Belted Galloway cows will soon move into Brandywine Creek State Park as part of an effort to reduce the number of invasive plants. The cows will call a five-acre area of the park's Freshwater Marsh Nature Preserve home for seven or eight weeks this summer. The Galloway's are expected to eliminate some invasive plants by eating them, or crushing them under their 1,200 pounds. "The Belted Galloways are an ancient Scottish breed used to eating coarse grasses, which is why they will work so well on a site like this," said Rob Line, Environmental Stewardship program manager, with the Division of Parks and Recreation. "This is new for Delaware, but not new for marsh restoration projects throughout the Northeast."

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Go native online - with plants!

Looking for some colorful and environmentally friendly plants for your garden or lawn? Now there's a handy online guide to native plants in the Chesapeake Bay region. With the Native Plant Center, you can search for native plants by name, type, sun exposure, soil texture and moisture - even look for native plants that match the characteristics of popular non-native plants. The site also features a "geo-locator" so you can identify what plants are suited to your particular location.

THE DISPATCH

State Grant To Help Polluted Berlin Stream BERLIN -- The Berlin Mayor and Council decided to accept a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant Monday night. The \$129,000 grant will cover most of the costs associated with restoring a section of Hudson Branch, considered the most polluted stream section in Maryland's Coastal Bays watershed. Town officials also hope that the

grant will serve as a catalyst, becoming a stepping stone to further funding. “People tend to treat it [Hudson Branch] as a sewer,” said Maryland Coastal Bays Science Coordinator Roman Jesien. He added that Hudson Branch is a “glaring area in Berlin” in need of attention. Jesien came before the council to outline the basics of a restoration project that would involve slowing water at a section of the stream next to Henry Park, planting vegetation and creating a sand and gravel matrix, which would act as a filter.

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VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Op-Ed: Kolotushkina: Clearing up some misconceptions of uranium mining study Certain misconceptions about the National Academy of Sciences study of uranium mining currently under way require clarification. First, the NAS study is simply not designed to give a definite answer to the crucial question of whether uranium mining can be done safely in Virginia. Instead, the scope of the NAS study calls for secondary research, a review of the literature and experiences with uranium mining elsewhere.

Young falcon reluctant to take first flight

Peregrine falcons are fearless predators, masters of the air. Well, most of them. <> In downtown Richmond on Thursday, a young falcon balked when it came time to make its first flight — from a 21st-story walkway.

Va. senators vote to eliminate ethanol subsidy With bipartisan support, the U.S. Senate voted 73-27 Thursday to eliminate a tax break benefiting the ethanol industry, with both Virginia senators supporting the amendment. The vote is a victory for lawmakers who see ending the subsidies as a first step toward deficit reductions.

MISCELLANEOUS

WATER ONLINE

EPA Seeks Small Business Participation On Wastewater Discharge The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is inviting small businesses to nominate representatives to participate in a Small Business Advocacy Review (SBAR) Panel. This panel will focus on the agency's development of a proposed rulemaking to strengthen and revise wastewater discharge regulations for steam electric power generating plants. Small business' participation can help EPA learn, first-hand, about ways to reduce regulatory burdens and help EPA better understand small business' challenges in complying with wastewater regulations. The rulemaking will address nuclear-fueled and fossil-fueled (i.e., coal, oil, gas) steam electric power plants. The wastewater discharges to be addressed include flue gas desulfurization wastes from sulfur dioxide air pollution controls, coal ash pond discharges, leachate from ash ponds and landfills containing coal combustion residues, coal gasification wastewater, and other waste streams from fossil-fueled and nuclear-fueled power plants. The main pollutants of concern for these discharges include nitrogen, total dissolved solids, and toxic metals such as mercury, arsenic and selenium. These metals can be lethal to aquatic life and can build up in fish, water fowl and humans causing detrimental effects

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human sewage pile, illegal dump top spots in Calif. 'environmental justice' sightseeing tour

THERMAL, Calif. — Community activists in Southern California's Coachella Valley have been toiling for years along the eastern rim of this crescent-shaped breadbasket to spread the word about the abandoned waste dumps, shoddy migrant housing and overburdened recycling facilities that are a fact of life in this poor, farmworker community. Their work paid off last month, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state regulators cracked down on a soil recycling plant that was blamed by air quality officials for a putrid stench that sickened dozens of children and teachers at a nearby school.

Japan refuses to extend Kyoto Protocol commitments to cut carbon emissions after 2012 expiry

Wild oryx _ seen as 'unicorn' of Arabian deserts _ brought back from near extinction

◇ FREMONT NEWS MESSENGER

Ohio Senate approves drilling in state parks

COLUMBUS — State parks and other lands in Ohio would be opened to oil and gas drilling under a bill that passed the state Senate on Wednesday, despite environmental concerns raised by Democrats.

THE STAR-LEDGER

Editorial: NJ ban on 'fracking' process to extract natural gas sends is necessary safeguard

This week, a group of legislators, activists and environmentalists called for a ban on the gas-extraction process known as fracking in the Garden State. Framing the effort as a means of protecting public health and guarding the region's public resources, the group — including representatives of the Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch and the Delaware Riverkeeper — wants to fast-track legislation preventing natural gas hydraulic fracturing. The technique consists of high-pressure infusion of a mixture of water, sand and chemicals deep into the ground, where the fluid breaks apart rocks holding pockets of natural gas. The move to ban the process in New Jersey is largely symbolic since there is no fracking in the state. However, the stance sends a signal to the surrounding states, where drillers have started tapping the vast stores of gas in the Marcellus Shale.

DIGITAL ENERGY

Consortium develops system for EPA CO2 reporting requirements

A consortium of oil companies, together with oil and gas software company Merrick Systems, has been put together to build a system to meet new US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions. The members of the consortium are Merrick Systems, Bill Barrett Corporation, Cabot Oil & Gas, Cimarex Energy Co., EXCO Resources, Merit Energy Company, Noble Energy, Inc. and Whiting Petroleum Corporation. According to the EPA's Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule (40 CFR part 98), suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial gases, along with other companies including those operating large industrial facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons CO2 equivalents, are required to report their greenhouse gas emissions. Companies are required to submit a request for EPA approval to use their best available method to capture the data by either July 31st or September 30th, 2011, depending on the source of the greenhouse gas.

WRVO PUBLIC MEDIA

Water Disposal: Achilles' Heel of Fracking ?OSWEGO, NY (wrvo) - The city of Auburn's sewage treatment plant is one of the few that accepts wastewater from natural gas drilling wells. It has become the focus of intense opposition from those who fight against the gas drilling method known as hydrofracking. WRVO's Joyce Gramza tells us communities across the state are likely to have to confront this same issue at their treatment plants. Mike Sligar, Chief Engineer at Watertown's Pollution Control Plant, says that city's participation in a recent test case was successful, but he won't accept any more applications. He says the intensity and caution of the process is

currently appropriate, but also prohibitive in paperwork and manpower.

On County: No Frack Fluids Allowed

SYRACUSE, NY (wrvo) - New York State is expected to finalize regulations that oversee the controversial gas drilling procedure called hydrofracking in the coming weeks. In the meantime, local wastewater treatment facilities are making decisions whether to take the so -called fracking fluids leftover from drilling that's taking place now. As WRVO's Ellen Abbott reports, one Central New York facility doesn't want anything to do with the stuff.
